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11 Sept 62

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Cuba-Trinidad-Jamaica: The Castro regime is continuing its efforts to woo the newly independent Caribbean states of Trinidad and Jamaica.

In Trinidad, the Cuban representative to the 31 August independence celebrations told the press that he had talked with Prime Minister Williams about trade relations and other economic matters. He said Cuba would soon formally propose the establishment of diplomatic relations with Trinidad, and that Cuba will be giving scholarships in "agricultural and technical training" to Trinidad citizens.

[In Jamaica, the first public pro-Castro, anti-US demonstration took place on 6 September in Kingston. It was sponsored by the newly formed Communist-front "Friends of Cuba Committee" and planned and directed by the Cuban consul resident in Kingston. An estimated 300 to 400 generally sympathetic Jamaicans attended and further meetings were promised.]

[While the Jamaican Government is basically pro-US and is concerned about the potential subversive threat from neighboring Cuba, the presence of some 40,000 Jamaicans in Cuba has led to a somewhat vacillating public attitude. In Trinidad, Prime Minister Williams, although anti-US, is also anti-Communist and he may turn down Cuba's overtures for the exchange of students and the establishment of diplomatic ties.]

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Laos: [Souvanna Phouma, in an effort to drum up popular support for the coalition, plans to tour several rightist-held towns in central and southern Laos this week. He will be accompanied by General Phoumi and possibly Souphanouvong.]

[Souvanna has expressed confidence that later he would visit such Pathet Lao strongholds as Sam Neua, Tchepone, and Nam Tha. He has not specified when or indicated whether any rightist elements would accompany him, nor is it certain that the Pathet Lao will allow him to make the trip. They still show no inclination to open up their territory and are continuing efforts to consolidate their control in the countryside.]

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Ghana: The explosion which occurred on 9 September during a loyalty demonstration near Nkrumah's residence in Accra appears to have been an act of terrorism designed to unnerve Nkrumah.

The incident may have been the work of the same group which attempted to kill Nkrumah last month.

There are reports that the previous attack on Nkrumah was staged by extremist Ghanaian opposition elements who had received a supply of grenades and rifles from Togo and that this group intended to continue their campaign against Nkrumah.

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Syria: Another political crisis may be brewing. A group of old-line politicians, led by former Premier Khalid al-Azm, is pressing for power and is being opposed by the army.

Key officers distrust Azm and regard him as excessively opportunistic. In 1957 he was a leading proponent of close relations with the Soviet bloc. His main motive seems to be personal ambition.

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